(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Creation of a autonomous Statutory Economic Reglatory Authority (CAERA) to oversee the financial practices of the airport, air navigation services providers and air transport operators, within the overall framework of the draft Civil Aviation Policy is under consideration.

Cheating through fake Demand Drafts

*135 SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inter-State gang of cheats has cheated banks, car dealers, jewellery shops in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Andhra Pradesh with the help of fake Demand Draft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to make Demand Drafts more foolproof beyond copying?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a few cases of fake demand drafts in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Andhra Pradesh have come to its notice. However, none of the public sector banks has reported any loss on account of such fake demand drafts. As regards cheating of car dealers of jewellery shops through use of fake demand drafts, RBI's data reporting system does not generate such information.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed instructions to banks advising safeguards against perpetration of frauds through fake/forged demand drafts. The safeguards *inter alia* include treating bank drafts as security items to be held in joint custody and balanced daily and verified periodically, printing drafts on sensitive paper, use of protectograph machines, pinpoint typewriters or protective cheque writers while issuing demand drafts, scrutinising carefully the signatures of drawing officials and in case of doubt contacting the issuing branch by fax/telex/telegram and ensuring extra caution by

passing officials where drafts of large amount are paid in cash. Banks have also been advised to introduce a system of sending facsimile copy of the draft issued to the drawee branch/bank.

Budget Allocation for National Waterways

*136. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plans of Government to make the National Wateways as a prime mode of transport to and from different corners of the country; and

(b) how much percentage of the total surface transport budget in spent for waterways and what is the same for roadways?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) The following three waterways have been declared as National Waterways:—

National Waterway No. 1

The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (1620 kms) from Allahabad to Haldia.

National Waterway No. 2

The Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 kms)

National Waterway No. 3

The West Coast Canal in Kerala from Kollam to Kottapuram alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals (205 Kms)

Schemes have been taken up to provide fairways & other related infrastructural facilities on the above National Waterways.

With the objective of developing Inland Water Transport (IWT) as an important mode of transport, the thrust is on the creation of infrastructure in the form of fairways with adequate depth and width besides the setting up of terminals and navigational aids through the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Efforts are in hand to augment the IWT fleet by suitable type of vessels and to ensure adequate cargo support. User Ministries have been requested to reserve 5% of their cargo to be moved through the mode of inland water transport. Considering the huge requirement of investible funds